

## HAWAIIAN PROPERTY.

(W. F. Mendenhall.)

The present unpropitious low price of sugar, which is now quoted in this market at a figure hitherto unknown, must seriously affect business interests in the Hawaiian Kingdom. We have carefully been scanning, for some time past, the columns of the Island press to discover what industries are being promoted or what agricultural enterprises are being fostered, but beyond deeply deploring their present gloomy prospects and constant and captious caviling at petty internal troubles, we are constrained to say we find nothing that has been, or is, likely to be of practical benefit to the Kingdom. They recognise plainly that business is almost at a standstill, and that there are no immediate prospects of its revival. Money is scarce and exchange is high. Everything, in fact, tends to show that the Islands are about to pass through a severe test. They have for many years been exceedingly prosperous; business has boomed, and perhaps too much so. Sugar was their sole industry, and it paid them well. While luxuriating in the past they have neglected the future. They have been over-confident and inclined to carelessness. But suddenly a change has faced them, and they seem unable to face it. The price of sugar may remain at its present low rate. This will be owing chiefly to the enormous increased production of beet sugar in Europe, which has far exceeded the demand. The supply from this source shows no signs of diminishing; sorghum sugar may also be thrown into the market, and in a few years we may expect to see the thousands of acres of fertile lands which are now lying idle in Mexico, producing magnificent sugar-cane at a very low cost, the price of labor there being at least one-third less than in Hawaii. This would forebode ill for that country; and, as the greater portion of its trade is with the United States, and more especially California, it behooves us to endeavor to assist our Island friends as far as lies in our power, for what affects them will to a certain extent affect us. If their crops fail, or if the price of sugar be unremunerative, then their expenditure will be proportionately diminished and our exports will decrease. They will import only bare necessities, their affluence being sufficient to warrant the importation of luxuries. Their local trade, both wholesale and retail, is now seriously affected. They have, from what we can learn from the local press and good authority in this city, to pass through one of those critical financial junctures that periodically befall almost every country. Their sugar crop for the present year is likely to exceed that of any previous year, the cane being unusually prolific, owing chiefly to favorable seasons. This is very opportune, as it will compensate, in a measure, for the low prices they are receiving, and perhaps enable the planters to hold their own without any serious retrograde movement. A short crop, similar to that of a year, would have been a grave matter; fortunately it has been averted. But they must not expect to be always equal as for unate, consequently we urge them, one and all, earnestly to be firm themselves, to lay aside their petty animosities, which they make only too apparent and which tend to bring them selves in the eyes of the United States, and to work with unity, energy and efficiency for their common welfare. The result remains on the Islands a considerable amount of money which is uninvested. Some of the planters have for sugar-cane and more or less. It is hardly likely that the expense of erecting the mill for sugar and the erection of new mills will be undertaken at present. If sugar will not pay themal present rates they must endeavor to ascertain how it can be made remunerative. The population of the Islands has been largely increased of late years and there should be some industries which, if established, would prove to be paying investments. To establish such industries would require capital and this they could rely upon obtaining from us. Americans are always willing to invest their money in sound business speculations. Let the Hawaiians show us what they can and are willing to do, and, if needs be, we think that

they will not look in vain for assistance. There is every variety of climate to be found on the Islands yet there is hardly any variety of fruit to be found there. Bananas and limes are the principal fruits that they send us and we can consume more of both. If it pays the fruit raisers of Tahiti to ship oranges to California how much better it would pay the Hawaiians. Yet Hawaiian oranges are unknown in our markets. The same may be said of pineapples, guavas, and many other tropical fruits which would find ready sale here. An attempt was lately made in Honolulu to organize a company for the cultivation of rambie, but, for some reason with which we are unacquainted, the proposed venture seems to have failed. This is greatly to be regretted, as fibres could be as readily placed in our markets as they could readily be grown in Hawaii. Chocolate, cocoa, cinchona, quinine, tobacco, maize, might all be tried thoroughly and carefully; many of the more elevated lands would produce wheat, barley, oats, peaches, figs, apples, pears, and other fruits of non-tropical countries. Their valleys and hill-sides are particularly adapted to the cultivation of the grape which might be largely and, we think, profitably produced; but it is very rarely that any island-grown grapes can be purchased in Honolulu. That the Islands, which are blessed with one of the most equable climates in the world, produce nothing but sugar, rice, and bananas in any appreciable quantity, hardly redounds to the credit or business enterprise of their inhabitants.

Though we may, perhaps, have touched rather much upon the dark side of the picture, and some immediate cause for despondency may be imminent, yet we feel assured that the future of the Hawaiian Kingdom will be a prosperous one; hard times may not be without their ultimate blessing. Our friends across the water may have been inclined in their prosperity to too much extravagance, perhaps even to recklessness, and they may learn a lesson that it is as well always to pay heed to the future. Fortune may not perpetually deign to smile upon us. Before any great returns can be expected from now industries that have yet to be started, it behooves the merchants, planters, and all interested in sugar cultivation, which includes every man, woman, and child on the Islands, to use every exertion to successfully compete with their rivals. They should first begin at home and reduce their own expenditures; they must have cheaper labor and minimize their plantation outlays; improvements and enlargements of their mills can hardly be attempted. If they pay the strictest attention and regard to care and economy, work with a will, and, above all things, pull together, for a house divided against itself cannot stand; if our Island friends can only comprehend and view these things from a disinterested standpoint and rectify what requires rectification, they will find in the course of time that their condition will be greatly improved, and that, financially their country will be on a good, sound and firm basis. The planter will be the chief immediate sufferer, for his agent has other business interests; but the agent will be an ultimate loser unless he co-operates with and assists the planter. The larger interests that a man has at stake so much the greater solicitude will he have for the success of others; and the more willing he will be to assist and advise each and every individual, lest all should suffer. The man who has his thousands invested and does not receive his customary large dividends, is inclined, when smarting under his depreciated profits, to overlook the proportionally larger losses of his neighbor who counts his investments by hundreds of thousands. They are now undergoing an unpleasant experience, but, by their united efforts and individual care, economy and forethought, we believe that they will eventually come through the crisis unscathed and more experienced. The establishment of new industries will always prove an advantage to the Kingdom. We hope to learn that our friendly advice and admonitions given with the best intentions, have been kindly taken, and that it will be productive of good and durable benefits to the Islands with which we so largely trade.

The cholera is still spreading in the South of France.

## THE SUBSIDY BILL.

We are not at all nervous about the passage of the subsidy for the ocean steamers, which comes up next Saturday. But, as the grunter sometimes tears his own throat with his feet in his efforts to swim, some are afraid that the Opposition, in blind hatred of their own interests, may try and cripple the Islands by fighting the subsidy to the ocean steamers.

If we look the matter straight in the face, we see to-day that Honolulu and San Francisco are connected by a fortnightly service of two of the finest vessels which ever floated. From stem to stern there is nothing but comfort. The pay roll embraces a list of 82 persons. The electric bells, the barber's shop, the berths, the service of the stewards, the exquisite linen and the table, which would put the average Eastern hotel to the blush, all tell the same story of perfect equipment and palatial comfort.

The question then of the hour is how to retain this service. Are we to be left in the dark December, to the moaning of the sea and an isolation from civilization almost equal to that of the Gilbert Islands? We think not. Common sense tells us that there is not a steamship which runs between New York and Liverpool which is more magnificently furnished, both by steam power and domestic comforts, than the two vessels which to-day link these Islands with the Coast. The sum of \$96,000, which is asked for as an appropriation for the next biennial period, is a drop in the bucket when compared with the advantage which will accrue to these Islands.

We have recently opened accounts, as it were, with the nations of the earth; introduced ourselves, in fact, to the world, and, although we are 2100 miles distant from San Francisco, the journey is only a pleasant *paseo*. It is a regal luxury to be in one of the cabins of the Alameda or Mariposa and float placidly down to these Islands. These steamships connect us with the world so closely that it alters our position as a factor in the sum total of nations.

The United States proposes to subsidize her steamers at the rate of \$1 per mile. The Oceanic Steamship Company asks but fifty cents, or to be more correct less than forty-nine cents. For this they carry our perishable products, our guavas, bananas, and tamarinds. It is the duty of every community to be just before they are generous, but in subsidizing the steamers of the Oceanic Steamship Company we can afford to be generous as well as just. This Kingdom, through His Majesty's tour around the world and the success of Col. Laucka and others in foreign missions demands a first-class service which shall connect it as closely as possible with the continent of America.

The Oceanic steamers are run at an expense of nearly \$18,000 per month. They carry all the freight and take today all the passengers. There is no subject of more vital importance to the Islands than the maintenance of a fortnightly service and it is a matter of record that no finer or more perfectly appointed boats exist than the twin steamships specially built for this service. Let the Opposition think and consider this if they have any idea of fighting the Appropriation asked for.

## A TIME FOR UNION.

Is it not about time that the fires were allowed to die out from under the political pot, and the serious business of the times was taken into consideration? A few newspapers and a few hot-headed gentlemen are responsible for the continuance of this unhealthy excitement. The Cabinet has been tripped at the bar of the Legislature for the high crimes and misdemeanors alleged by a portion of that body, and it has been acquitted. The Ministry was accused of unconstitutional proceedings, but the accusations fell to the ground. Not a journal in this city spoke in their favor, but while the *Bulletin* and *Hawaiian* represented the radical portion of the Opposition, the *Advertiser* believed in that conservatism which urges a trial purely and simply upon its merits. When we were convinced that the Ministers had not violated the law, we were satisfied, in the interest of fair play, to let the contest drop. We felt assured that

had it been satisfactorily proven to His Majesty that his Cabinet had been guilty of an unconstitutional administration of the affairs of this Government, he would not have hesitated for a moment about their dismissal. We know that he has acted with promptitude in the past when Cabinets had disregarded the laws laid down for their guidance, and we have no reason to believe that he would be less energetic in this case, had the first necessity for such action appeared.

A continuance of this anti-Ministerial agitation is not healthy. We can gain nothing by it. It is repugnant to the conservative element of this community. They want no more of it, but they do want an earnest examination into our affairs, and some provision against the clouds now threatening us. Bluster, threats and vituperation should be allowed to pass away with the relics of the campaign, for a campaign it was, and a bitter one against the Ministry. Let us abandon all these unbecoming and distracting enmities, and unite in promoting the prosperity of these Islands, and tiding over that ancient complaint which is common to all countries—dull times.

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 1, 1884.

Drawing-rooms have been in a ferment and clubs in a dement over the Jersey Lily, who has just finished her engagement as an actress at the Baldwin Theatre, and has flitted away to the Yosemite Valley. Her long cherished belief that she could take her big, luxurious palace car the "Jerome Marble," right through the rocky fastnesses of the valley amused everybody immensely. The poor woman has been subjected to some brutal treatment here, which makes one blush for the city, for, although the Lily may be a naughty girl, and certainly is a careless one, she is not so unique in her conduct as to justify a public pillorying of her when she takes her walks abroad.

She is very pretty and aristocratic on the stage, has a delicate, English oval face, a cushion of light brown hair, worn on the very tip top of her small head, has a small waist, a shapely back and shoulders and a low and ripely swelling bust. She has all a lady's disgust at being publicly hugged and forbids demonstration to her leading man which gives an unusually distant cast to all her performances. It is not distasteful but it is novel and it casts a gloom over the warm scenes. Mrs. Langtry has begun her stage career too late ever to make a great actress, but her tact, beauty and intelligence will always make her an acceptable one, while her adventitious fame as a professional beauty will swell her audiences, as will also her repertory of plays which comprise "*She Stoops to Conquer*" and "*The Hunchback*," fine old comedies for which a certain reading and stage-loving constituency in every city will always turn out.

A very humorous element in her visit was the unanimity with which her cause was espoused by the ladies. The audiences blossomed with ladies—one reason why the applause was so slight—and all, to a woman, declared that now they had seen Mrs. Langtry's beauty, they knew by intuition that a woman with such a face was pure and good, and never could have, etc., etc. Many of the kindlier and more wordly among the men championed her cause against the blackguardly dogging of her and gossips about her in the less reputable newspapers, but when it was established beyond a doubt that young Gebhart was in the city, more or less incog., chivalry got a hard blow.

We are sweating in the political hammock, the Democratic Convention will be clogging the wires with its dolings at Chicago in a day or two. Everybody deplors that they have no great name to rally round. I confess I favor Field. He is an immensely clever and gentlemanly man, learned in the law, and amply patriotic.

Although no one has heard anything drop, still some of Blaine's boom is conspicuously missing. He will have the women against him in his running—a big, voiceless, terrible power. They will be against him because they fear a war that will carry off their fathers, brothers, hus-

bands and sons. The Irish, too, are against him, though his managers are working his Catholic mamma for all she is worth. They say a war with Mexico will be Blaine's first exploit—always in case—Mexico, who harries our southern borders most unpleasantly and is herself in a bad way through the election of President Diaz and the supposed treachery of General Ferverino, who tried to capture the election through numerous ways that are dark, and meantime governmental oppression and heavy taxation, and threatened famine make the Mexicans uneasy and rebellious. Five commissioners were nominated Spain to consider the selling of Cuba to the United States. It was called a secret mission, but it was a very open secret as soon as the commissioners reached Havana. The question was simply, "What will the United States give us?" Cuba bores Spain. Spain is lazy, and hates quelling insurrections once every six months—she, a few hundred years ago, the foremost discoverer and colonist of the world.

The cholera, pronounced truly Asiatic by connoisseurs, fills its due amount of graves in South France, and of telegraphic space in our morning newspapers. There is a mild scare got up about its visit to San Francisco, and cleanliness is urged upon our City Fathers, but whatever Heaven's wholesome breezes and Neptune's swashing unassisted tides will be kindly pleased to do for us in the way of wafting and dredging away disease germs and filth, is all that this badly plundered city is ever going to get in the way of cleaning. The Supervisors have come to consider the taxes as theirs. We might as well ask private citizens to clean the city. They would not be more surprised.

Harvard was beaten in the boat race with Yale, and great was the grief among our Cambridge boys. Others, more philosophical, said that Yale must beat occasionally lest she become quite discouraged.

COMRADE.

LONDON, June 14, 1884.

THE MAORI KING.—Since the ill-fated voyage of Kamehameha II. (Libohilo) and Kamamalu—"the King and Queen of the Sandwich Islands"—to this country in 1824, the visits of Polynesian Sovereigns and Princes to this city have been frequent. H. M. Queen Emma was here in 1866, and King Kalakaua's visit in 1881 will long remain memorable. Queen Marau of Tahiti has only recently returned from here to her home in the Pacific, and now Tachiao, the King of the Maoris, has arrived. The S. S. Sorata, "having on board the king and his chiefs, arrived here on the 2nd inst. The King's suite includes the chiefs Topia Turoa, Hiri Ropha, Major Te Wheoro, who have been members of the New Zealand parliament for several years, and Patara Te Tuki, the King's secretary, and formerly editor of a Maori paper. Mr. Geo. Skidmore acts as interpreter. All wear European dress and but for their color would be quite incognito. The king is the only one who is distinguished by a remnant of barbaric display, a very fine piece of greenstone, punamu, hanging from his right ear. He now also wears the white feather in his hat, as he does invariably at home. He is a man of middle height, over 60 years of age, and has pleasant, agreeable manners. His face is deeply scarred with tattoo marks in a minute scroll patterns, which cover the entire forehead and features except just below the eyes. Although the precise object of his visit is not known, it is believed that he hopes to be confirmed in his position as the Maori King. He will also ask the British Government to have some of the confiscated land returned to the natives, that the 4 or 5 million acres still in Maori possession, are made inalienable.

PARAGRAPHS.

The Emperor of Germany has accorded the necessary permission to Captain Dautwiz, of H. I. M. corvette "Leipsic," to accept and wear the commander's cross of the order of the Royal Hawaiian Crown. The official report of the Universal Postal Union, giving the receipts in 1883 of all the states belonging to the Union, begins with the United States (220 million francs) and ends with the following:—Persia 372,000, Guatemala 186,500,